

**Applicant Name** Hysham Irrigation District  
**Project Name** Main Ditch Improvements

#### **Project Abstract**

The proposal area covers 6,165 irrigated acres in the Yellowstone River Basin in Treasure County. Irrigation water is pumped from the Yellowstone River with three 350 hp electric pumps. The primary concern is to deliver more water to users in the lower part of the district. A portion of the lower main ditch does not have adequate water transmission capacity during the high water demand growing season. At present, the three pumps deliver more water than a segment of the lower main ditch can handle; thus, some of the water is spilled back into the river. At present, up to 20% of the pumped water is spilled back into the Yellowstone River because of this undersized ditch. This is a waste of electric energy and also downgrades river water quality.

The primary purpose of this project is to increase the ditch carrying capacity 30%, by increasing the volume that can be carried in it. By increasing the ditch capacity, it will give the lower ditch users adequate water, and they will also be able to bring an additional 135 dry land crop acres under irrigation. It will also generate more farm income, increase the tax base for Treasure County, and reduce the electricity cost per acre for the users. Electricity is the largest single expense for the district. Last year, the electric bill was \$53,186 or \$8.67 per acre. This project will result in the district making better use of the water it pumps. It will not result in the district pumping more water. Present district crop value is about \$4.7 million. With the proposed improvements, crop value should increase to \$4.85 million.